



10 YEARS OF CIVIC ALLIANCE

- commitment to democratic and civic development of Montenegrin society -

December, 2021.

Introduction



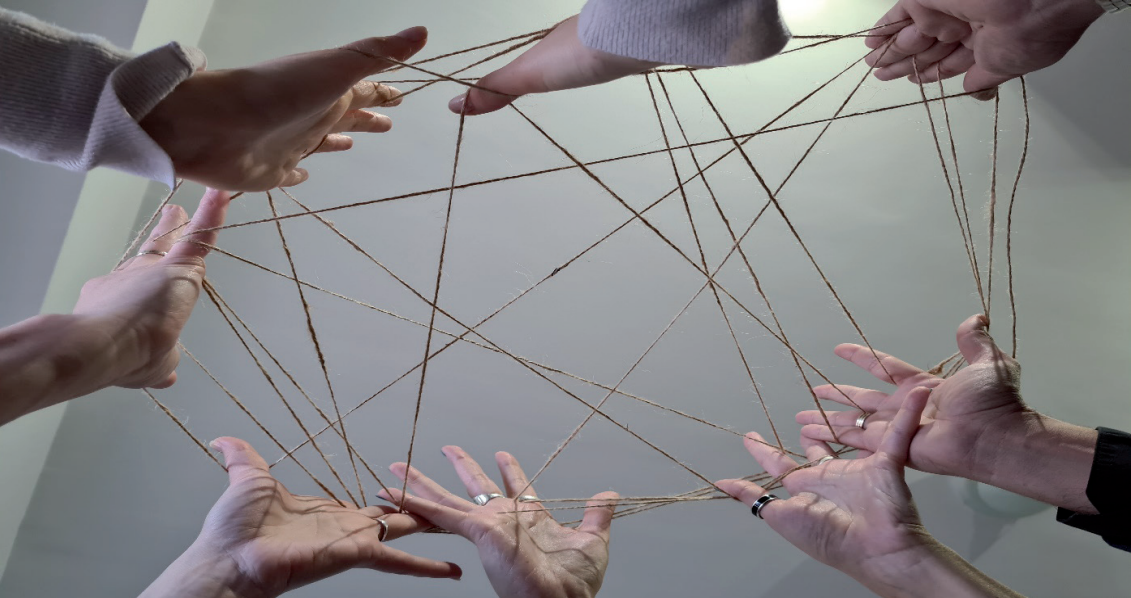
Boris Raonić
Founder of Civic Alliance

Civic Alliance was founded 10 years ago with an aspiration to achieve numerous goals gathered around one idea - providing support to citizens - which has remained an imperative and backbone in all aspects of our work. Over the past decade we have worked tirelessly and successfully on protection of human and civil rights.

Thanks to the exceptional dedication and work of all former and current team members, who coped equally well with all successes, but also challenges, Civic Alliance has developed into the organization it is today, with a respectable place in the NGO sky.

The aim of this publication is to unite and present in one place the path through which the organization has developed, the most important moments and achievements.





The publication also presents the progress made in the field of human rights protection during previous decades, controlling the work of state institutions, strengthening capacities and providing support to civic initiatives, communication and providing assistance to citizens. Despite the achieved results, there are still many challenges that our society has to face; among them, chapters 23 and 24 stand out the most.

Montenegrin civil and democratic society based on the rule of law is the vision that has been guiding us while defining our program from the very beginning. Tolerance, responsibility, equality, teamwork, transparency, continuous learning and cooperation are the values we affirm in our daily communication with each other, but also in communication with

our close associates. That is why GA office is recognized by others for its positive atmosphere, mutual support and teamwork. Among the employees are members of all ethnic, religious and ideological affiliations in Montenegro. All of us, on the other hand, cherish the concept of civil state that marks all our activities.

Looking back on the achievements throughout the past ten years, we are proud of the established partnerships and cooperation with other organizations and associations that share our values and contribute to our vision with their work.

Therefore we continue with the same enthusiasm and the same pace on the path of the mission of Civic Alliance and values that are an integral part not only of our work, but also of the way of life.

Partnerships are established and cooperation is achieved with other organizations and associations.

Civic Alliance Council formed.

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

By merging "35 mm" and "Youth Initiative for Human Rights", Civic Alliance is established.

Promotion and development of civic awareness and control role of the civil sector. A year of growth of the number of teams, activities, partner organizations, donors, projects.

The Civic Alliance is positioned as a leading NGO in the field of treating problems of prison systems and their compliance with the principles of anti-discrimination.

where we are now

A year that was full of challenges for Montenegro, but in which the Civic Alliance pointed to systemic problems, called for dialogue and promoted long-term and sustainable solutions.

We continue with turning challenges into opportunities to improve the human rights situation in Montenegro.

Civic Alliance starts implementing projects that address the issue of asylum and migration, while providing thousands of legal advice to asylum seekers.

Restructuring of the programs - merging the previous five into new three programs: Human Rights and Justice Program, School of Political Studies and Media Program.

More than 40 projects have been implemented, cooperation with all institutions in the country, critical review of their work, but also giving a hand of partnership, participation in the law-making process - which soon positioned us as a reliable partner and an indispensable factor in all processes involving civil society representatives.

Adapting and addressing challenges during the COVID-19 crisis.



2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

Civic Alliance - Aleanca Qytetare

Development through programs

1 HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE PROGRAM

Over the past decade, Civic Alliance has, in a broader context, initiated and participated in initiatives that point to violations of human rights and freedoms and called for building a more just world. We believe that our overall work has strongly contributed to the public recognizing of the importance of this role. Within the human rights and justice program, we dealt with anti-discrimination and dignity of persons deprived of their liberty, rights of minorities, persons with disabilities, dealing with the past, politically motivated violence, freedom of expression, personal data protection, religious freedom, displaced persons and asylum seekers status, as well as economic and social rights.

Significant part of our work is dealing with the past, and our organization, in cooperation with the Youth Initiative for Human Rights, is working tirelessly to advocate this idea, regardless of the lack of political will at the state level. On the contrary, we are tireless fighters for the prosecution of all crimes committed during the 90s in Montenegro, and through various activities we try to raise awareness of the importance of knowledge about war crimes, which will ultimately contribute to reconciliation in Montenegro and the region. At the same time, Montenegro will be a country without burdens of the past, which will enable it to succeed faster and easier in every sense.

The essential work of this program has been based on direct communication with the citizens, which we have also maintained today. We have provided support and free legal aid to those in need. We have succeeded in numerous proceedings before domestic courts, and we have also received successful verdicts before the European Court of Human Rights when our courts and institutions persistently violated human rights.

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We participated in drafting of laws, submitted initiatives to the Constitutional Court when the proposed legal provisions were not in accordance with the Constitution and adopted international standards, and worked on their better application in practice together with our partners. We have fought for full respect for human rights through announcements and press releases in media, where we have been mentioned thousands of times in the last ten years. We have established cooperation with institutions, organizations and individuals who were

on the road to the common goal of building Montenegro as a civil state where human rights are promoted and protected. We have also built a network of partners outside



Barutana, Alumni Forum of the School of Political Studies

Montenegro, participated in writing alternative reports to numerous bodies and cooperated with international institutions and organizations. Numerous relevant international reports contain quotes from our reports and activities. We have organized and supported the marking of the most important dates in the field of human rights and on that occasion gathered all important entities in these areas and developed a network of human rights defenders.

- **Protection of minority rights and rights of vulnerable group**

Through various activities, actions and events, we have been constantly working to protect the rights of minorities, members of Roma and Egyptian population, PWDs, LGBTIQ population, elderly, women, asylum seekers, migrants...



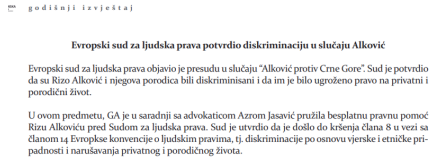
Promotion of the publication "Groundedness of minority population in Montenegro"



Award ceremony for the best investigative journalist story that promotes the language and culture of Roma and Egyptians



Public debate "Activism towards change: Social inclusion of Roma through education, training and employment"



Verdict in Alković case



Socializing with migrants and asylum seekers in Podgorica



Action to provide aid to the most vulnerable groups during COVID. "Equally important"



- **We traditionally celebrate International Human Rights Day with many activities**

We have also organized and supported marking of the most important dates in the field of human rights. For years, we have organized numerous activities on the occasion of International Human Rights Day. The most important competition is the “Search for Human Rights”, which brought high school students to study visits to Vienna and Berlin.



Humanitarian basketball game



Humanitarian football game



Youth competition on the occasion of “Human Rights Day”



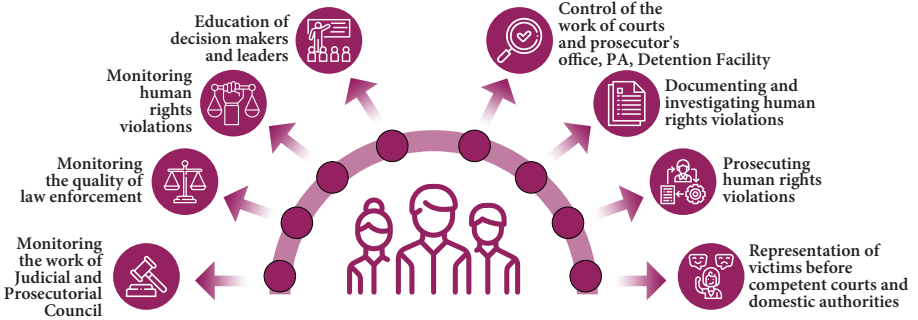
Conference “How to protect family from domestic violence”



Guest appearance in the show “Argumenti” on RTCG

● Monitoring the work of state institutions

In addition to monitoring the work of state institutions, Civic Alliance prepares recommendations for improving the work of institutions, with the aim of improving their services to citizens.



B | T | D The Balkan Trust for Democracy
A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND

GRADANSKA ALIJANSA
CIVIC ALLIANCE

Norwegian Embassy
Belgrade

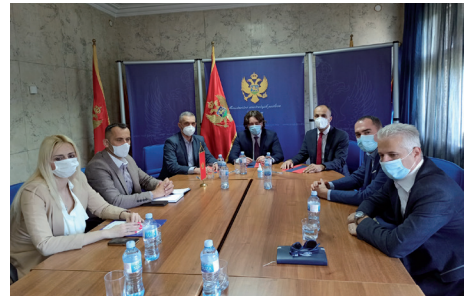
**Nacionalna konferencija
"Izazovi za transparentno, efikasno i odgovorno pravosuđe"**
07.12.2020. u 09:45h, hotel "Hilton", Podgorica

Uvodni panel

Panel I: Institucije u procesu promjena

Panel II: Predstavljamo izvještaje o radu tri okupljenska odbora i Sudskog i Tužilačkog savjeta

Moderator



National Conference "Challenges for transparent, efficient and responsible justice"

Signing of Memorandum on Cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Police Administration aiming to improve respect for human rights, especially persons deprived of their liberty, asylum seekers, migrants, internally displaced persons, displaced persons and stateless persons.



Signing of Memorandum on Cooperation with the Judicial Council



Conference "Impunity from the aspect of the case law of the European Court of Human Rights"

● Dealing with the past and fight against fascism and anti-Semitism

Together with a member of Civic Alliance, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, we have been constantly working to deal with the past and fight against fascism and anti-Semitism. Youth exchange projects have been implemented for years, both in Montenegro and in the region. With partner organizations from the region, we implement programs aimed at informing young people about the war in Montenegro and the region.



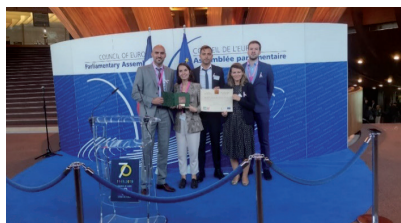
*Civic Alliance publication
about antifascism*



*Laying flowers at the monument to
civilian victims of the wars in the area of
former Yugoslavia 1991-2001.*

● Award „Vaclav Havel“

As a result of such long-term work, in 2019, Youth Initiative for Human Rights received the prestigious award for human rights “Vaclav Havel”, which has been awarded by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg since 2009. This award is given for outstanding actions of civil society regarding the protection of human rights.



*“Vaclav Havel” Award Ceremony in
Strasbourg*



Award “Vaclav Havel”

● Information and Documentation Center

One of the main ideas of Civic Alliance and its members has been the establishment of Information and Documentation Center (IDC), which collects and archives all available materials related to war crimes committed in Montenegro during the 1990s. We realized this idea in 2020 and opened the Center, which is the only one of its kind in Montenegro and which we are especially proud of.



Opening ceremony of Information and Documentation Center



Regional Conference "Reconciliation and Dealing with the Past in the Western Balkans"



Laying flowers at the memorial house to the victims of Kaludjerski laz



Memory Book "War Crimes During the 90s in Montenegro"

2 MEDIA PROGRAM - BACKBONE FOR CITIZENS, SUPPORT TO THE MEDIA

Since its founding, Civic Alliance has begun to develop a quality media program, through which it has been distinguished as an NGO open to cooperation with the media. We have continuously listened to the needs of citizens, and then used channels through media programs to influence public policies. Media freedoms, journalistic ethics and professionalism are one of the areas that we continuously monitor and strive to act correctively.



Author of the show "Robin Hood" - Darko Ivanović

We worked on the social magazine "Robin Hood", a Sunday periodical, which basically relied on the postulates of "citizen" journalism, and which lasted until 2016. "Robin Hood" researched topics directly related to the problems of citizens, in order to solve them, and thus placed itself directly in the service of citizens and civil society as a whole. The problems were processed in the form of reports

presented to the public, and then a state or local government official is invited to the studio to solve the problem. This magazine had a great public reaction precisely because on one hand it provided a concrete and constructive contribution to the creation of more efficient state services, but also provided a unique insight into the essence of citizens' life problems, ways of functioning of state bodies and legal mechanisms at our disposal.



Laying flowers at the place of the murder of Duško Jovanović, Editor of "Dan"

Also, through other mechanisms, we have provided assistance to all citizens who failed to reach the institutions responsible for their problems in the right way or to reach faster to information from the scope of work of state bodies. Citizens have contacted us through our website www.gamn.org, but also through our social networks Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, through which we quickly and efficiently provide the required answers, advice and information. Through these channels, we also inform the public about the results of our activities, and we also influence the promotion of transparency of state and local authorities, agencies, inspections, medical, judicial and other sectors.

Thanks to the media exposure and professionalism of our team members, and especially directors and coordinators of the programs, Civic Alliance has matured into a very media-attractive organization, hence becoming an important participant and often the predominant factor in shaping public opinion. We are an indispensable factor in commenting on all social movements, events and changes and it seems that this role has justified our current position in NGO and media sky, so CA is an unavoidable factor, active participant and increasingly - a creator of social changes.



Conference "Principles of Media Ethics in the Media and Public"

Through our ten years work, we have gained significant experience in the field of media program, and thus created a solid foundation for further progress in this area. Civic Alliance will remain committed to its goal of influencing the creation of public opinion and social flows through our actions, through dedicated cooperation with citizens. Improving media freedom, ethical and professional journalism, reducing hate speech and preventing the spread of false news will remain priority areas of our activities. Thus, we plan to stay with the citizens and key European bodies recognised as a media program that plays an important role in the process of democratization and development of Montenegrin society.



Regional Conference "Media Freedom and Safety of Journalists in the Western Balkans"

3 SCHOOL OF POLITICAL STUDIES

In the past ten years, about 250 participants have passed through the School of Political Studies - MPs, representatives of political parties, international organizations and state institutions, journalists, representatives of the civil sector. In the past decade, the School of Political Studies has positioned itself as one of the key platforms for non-formal political education in Montenegro. Through cooperation with a network of similar schools supported by the Council of Europe across the continent - we have successfully responded to the needs of political and social actors to learn and discuss the most important aspects of transitional reforms with prominent domestic and international professionals.



Seminar of the SPS

Another very important advantage of our School is that it represents a permanent framework for dialogue between various social and political groups and their representatives on the most important reform issues. This has become even more important over the past decade, marked by growing political divisions and boycott of institutions.

What makes us proud are our alumni, who used the acquired knowledge and contacts to continue with their successful careers at the head of key state institutions from the Government to the Parliament, political parties, NGOs, media, but also unions and religious communities. All of them belong to a wide circle of associates, within which the Civic Alliance promotes its program values in the field of human rights and democracy, and stimulates dialogue and cooperation towards a common goal to the European Union.

In thematic sense, during these ten years we have conducted dialogues on the rule of law, respect for human rights, responsible institutions, fight against corruption, negotiation chapters 23 and 24, challenges on the way to the European Union, minorities and ethnic distance, obstacles and weaknesses of prosecutors' organizations, challenges in the work of judicial institutions, ethical reporting of the media on socially vulnerable groups. We also dealt with the culture, customs and rights of minorities in Montenegro.



Study visit to Norway



Study visit to Strasbourg



Alumni Forum of SPS



Study visit to Dubrovnik

A special component of our programs have been regular study visits to Norway, during which participants had the opportunity to learn about the state-building experiences of Scandinavian democracy, from representatives of political parties and state institutions to the media, trade unions and the civil sector. These visits were enabled through the partnership with Norwegian government and renowned Nansen Academy in Lillehammer.

Also, the international component of the School included regular annual visits to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and attending the annual World Forum of Democracy, where they could meet students from other schools in Eastern Europe, as well as renowned lecturers from many fields within the thematic framework of democratization.

● Volunteerism and socially responsible activities



Voluntary blood donation action

Civic Alliance volunteers are always happy to respond and participate not only in humanitarian actions, but also in activities that are favorable for the functioning of our society.



Podgorica cleaning action



Organization of iftar in Pljevlja

Civic Alliance decided to mark 10th anniversary exactly by participating in numerous humanitarian activities.

Together with the great students of the Music Academy, we visited the Youth Club within the Resource Center, which is attended by young people with disabilities. As part of the visit, the students of the Music Academy held a concert that took place in a great atmosphere and mood of all those present. It was a pleasure to spend time with the young people at the Resource Center, who enjoyed a two-hour concert with us.



We visited the orphanage “Mladost” in Bijela where we held a decoupage workshop for children in the lower grades of primary school. In addition to the workshop, students of the Music Academy held a concert for these students, who enjoyed their performance.



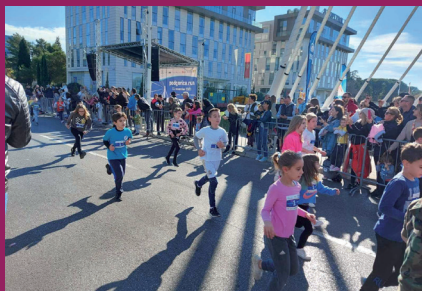
Our volunteers participated in two actions, together with the children of our employees:

- Humanitarian race “We run for friends who cannot”
- Great planting action in Gorica

With the pleasure of participating in activities that have a humanitarian character, our volunteers were part of these events with enjoyment and fun. The youngest ones especially had fun - they participated in the race together with many children from Podgorica, but also planted seedlings in Gorica, and learned about the importance of environmental protection.

As part of the action against breast cancer, which is marked in October, we have provided free medical examinations for our colleagues, in order to prevent this vicious disease.

Finally, we donated funds to the Equestrian Club “Budućnost”, which will be used to support children with disabilities, who attend this club.



● Future challenges

Bearing in mind the insufficient speed of Montenegrin society accession to the European Union, as a framework for respecting the principles of human rights and the rule of law, we can point out that this will be one of the main challenges in our further work. While we have all the chapters open at the moment, there is no even a sign of closing the chapters 23 and 24. Implementation of laws and strategies remains the primary task of Montenegrin society in the process of joining the European Union.



Conference “Challenges of Montenegro in Negotiating Chapters 23 and 24”

When we started with operation of Civic Alliance in 2011, it was to be expected that most of the challenges would be solved by 2021; however, we were wrong. These topics are very much raised and are still discussed today, ten years later. Dealing with the past, corruption, ethnic distance and many others are those that stand out.

Years of integration and bringing the decades-long transition to an end are ahead of us, and our goal will be their faster and more quality completion.

Although we are satisfied with what has been done, many challenges remain before our society and us. The Civic Alliance team will continue to work on the initiated route of building Montenegro as a safe home for all its citizens, with full understanding and respect for our differences, where institutions will protect human rights.

● Memberships in working bodies

The mission of Civic Alliance is reflected in the quality and efficient contribution and establishment of civil and democratic society, through capacity strengthening and support to civic initiatives, protection and promotion of human rights and control of the work of state institutions.

Our colleagues, members of councils, working groups and commissions, have given their full contribution to our mission through the institutions of the system, and we are proud that their principled positions are true indicators of how the public interest should be represented.

Through our membership in numerous bodies, working groups and councils, we have left our imprint in the previous period both through the control and through numerous initiatives in which we have appeared as initiators.

Our former colleague **Boris Raonić** was a member of the National Council for European Integration, the governing bodies of several NGOs, Parliamentary Committee for Amendments to Electoral Legislation, Ethics Committee of the Police Administration and several working groups for drafting legal solutions, as well as the Council of the Electronic Media Agency. He is a member of several IVLP networks, Transformation thinkers, EGAM, PtoP and many similar networks. He is the director of the School of Political Studies.

Through his membership in the RTCG Council, our colleague **Milan Radović** had numerous initiatives related to the information program, promotion and protection of human rights, and he also dealt with these issues during his membership in NPM, i.e. working body formed by the Protector of Human Rights for Torture Prevention. He was also a member of several working groups for drafting human rights legislation. We would especially like to single out the working groups for drafting the Law on the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms and the Law on Public Assemblies.

The position of a member of the Council of RTCG is now performed by the colleague **Amina Murić**, who will also try to give her maximum contribution to the improvement of media freedom, but also to the professionalization of the Public Broadcaster, while respecting human and minority rights.

Colleague **Edina Hasanaga Čobaj** was a member of the Council for the Protection of Patients at the Special Psychiatric Institution in Dobrota, a body that received complaints from patients about the work of medical staff. She is also a member of the Transparency Council of the Ministry of the Interior.

Colleague **Zoran Vujičić** has been a member of the State Election Commission since 2018. His work has increased the transparency of the work of this institution. He was also a member of the Ethics Committee of the Ministry of the Interior in the previous mandate. He influenced the introduction of an article in the Code which prescribes that police officers must adhere to the Code in their announcements on social networks. Exactly after the introduction of this article, violations of the Code were found with several officers. He was a member of the Working Group for the Drafting of the Law on Amendments to the Law on the Execution of Probation and Community Punishment.

Colleague **Aleksandra Vukčević** was a member of the working group for the Negotiating Chapter 24, and the Council for the Rule of Law.

Colleague **Ivana Dođić** is a member of the Ethics Committee of the Ministry of Interior.

Colleague **Andela Đuković** is a member of the Working Group for Chapter 23.

Colleague **Aleksandra Srbljanović** is a member of the Working Group for Monitoring the Migrant Crisis in Pljevlja.

Colleague **Pavle Ćupić** is a member of the Working Group for Chapter 24.

Colleague **Dino Hodžić** is a member of the Interdepartmental Operational Team for providing assistance in exercising the rights of Montenegrin citizens upon their return to Montenegro.

By participating in the bodies listed above, our colleagues have shown how it is possible to impassively improve the situation in the field of human rights, but also to act with principle.

What others said about us...

About Human Rights Program:

“Institution of the Protector achieves successful cooperation with Civic Alliance, from year to year. CA proved professionalism and devotion to topics on human rights and freedom protection last year in more fields of its activism. We consider that the most important characteristic of your work are persistence in the set goals and programs, proactivity and creativity in initiation of the new ideas. Bearing in mind that the job of promotion and protection of human rights is never done, I believe we will continue with joint activities on mutual pleasure and for the sake of citizens.”

Šučko Baković, Protector of Human Rights, 2018

“What characterizes CA is continuity in work, which is praiseworthy, because only hard work leads to desired goals. All reactions at the sessions of the Board for Human Rights or public reactions had important features – objectivity, modesty in statements, without inadequate words and in the manner which helps in detecting and resolving problems. Of course, you always criticize the ones who deserves critique, but always appraise the ones who deserve to be praised. I would love that you continue to work like this, because I am sure this is good for both NGO sector and the state of Montenegro.”

Halil Duković,

Member of the Parliament and the President of the Parliamentary Board for Human and Minorities Rights and Freedoms, 2016

“We had precious, competent assistance and support from Civic Alliance, which timely and duly promotes ideas, indicates the problems and offers solutions for them, which is important for development of the society. We especially appreciate serious devotion of CA to intensify process of dealing with the past in Montenegro and to economically empower municipalities where minorities and national communities are dominant, with the special focus on the north of the state. Number of activities during 2016 and contribution to public discussion can serve as the example to many of NGOs.”

Husein Ceno Tuzović,

President of the Council of Forum of Bosniaks of Montenegro, 2016

About Media Program:

„During 2016, with its commitment and devoted work, the team of Civic Alliance helped organizations that had less experience, such as the Media Trade Union of Montenegro. Thanks to their devotion and patience, we managed to organize our work well and improve the access and communication with our members.“

Marijana Camović, President of the Media Trade Union, 2016

„NGO Parents and Civic Alliance started to cooperate formally last year, through the project „Marginalized by the system: No more!“. Except the joint work and exchange of experience, this cooperation was very important for NGO Parents, because we had the opportunity to meet with the methods of work that characterise larger organizations with many years of experience, which was more than useful for us, as a young organization. Thanks to this cooperation, we have learnt and started to apply principles in work flow, which will help us in future to be more efficient and more systematic. With Civic Alliance and partner organizations we worked on concrete problems and their resolving, which is our main goal, and that we consider as very important.“

Kristina Mihailović, President of NGO Parents, 2016

About the Rule of Law Program:

“Bearing in mind the significant role of nongovernmental sector in development of Montenegrin society, Ministry of Justice signed the Agreement on Cooperation with Civic Alliance. In cooperation with CA, Ministry of Justice implements part of activities related to the reform of enforcement of criminal sanctions system. Previous cooperation has been good and will be improved in future on mutual interest and pleasure.”

Ministry of Justice, 2016

“Our successful cooperation reflected in strengthening of rights of patients and generally their human rights and freedoms; improvement of conditions for treatment and their rehabilitation, especially through promotion and development of psychosocial services, with the accent on occupational therapy. With the full respect, you gave us the opportunity to participate and contribute to development of strategies, reports, and analysis you carefully prepared, to participate at all your significant conferences, round tables, and other professional meetings, related to improvement of rights of patients, especially patients with imposed security measures and/or imprisonment sentences. You also demonstrated interest to provide help to this institution materially and through certain project activities.”

Dragan Čabarkapa, Director of the Special Psychiatry Hospital in Kotor, 2018

“As the end of the year is usually a period when we summarize results and achievements, I would like to inform you that the Constitutional Court of Montenegro is satisfied with cooperation with Civic Alliance in a year behind us. I hope we will continue successful cooperation in 2019 and strengthen it with our joint activities.”

Desanka Lopičić, a judge and former President of the Constitutional Court, 2018

About the School of Political Studies:

“SDL is one of the most important organizations in Montenegro because it offers the opportunity to meet people and free themselves from prejudices that they have about other people, because they know each other only through the “TV or newspapers”. For example, SDL gives the opportunity to journalists and politicians to freeze together in Jahorina, to take a midnight sunbath with a cup of coffee in Oslo or Lillehammer. SDL connects media and public activists, and provides wider media content. Thanks to SDL, from the courteous “You” people address each other with the charmingly “you”.”

Milica Minić, editor of the web portal CdM, 2016

“Participation in School of Democratic Leadership was important for me for several reasons. It helped me to connect with other decision makers, creators of public policies, and future staff that will cover these positions, which is a good step towards joint work for the benefit of the society. I would especially like to emphasize the study visit to Norway, which was so useful in the context of opportunity to see efficient functioning of institutions of a developed and functional country.”

Srdan Kosović, editor in chief of Vijesti web portal, 2016